Vietnam Grand Tour: North to South Expedition – 14 Days

14D / 13N	Easy	Private	USD 1,885 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore Vietnam's diverse landscapes and rich culture over 14 days, journeying from the northern mountains and Ha Long Bay to the historic cities of Hue and Hoi An, concluding in vibrant Ho Chi Minh City and the tranquil Mekong Delta.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Sapa → Ha Long → Hue → Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City → Lao Cai → Da Nang → Ben Tre

TOUR OVERVIEW

This comprehensive 14-day journey offers an unparalleled exploration of Vietnam, meticulously designed to showcase the country's breathtaking natural beauty, profound historical legacy, and vibrant local traditions. From the ancient streets of Hanoi to the serene waterways of the Mekong Delta, each day unfolds a new chapter of discovery.

The adventure begins in Hanoi, where you'll delve into millennia of history and culture, including a captivating street food experience. A highlight is an overnight cruise through the ethereal limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay, followed by a scenic night train journey to the mountainous region of Sapa. Here, you'll connect with ethnic communities and ascend the majestic Fansipan peak.

Mid-tour, you'll fly south to the imperial city of Hue, cruising the Perfume River and visiting royal tombs, before continuing to the charming lantern-lit town of Hoi An for cultural immersion and relaxation. The final leg transports you to the dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, where you'll explore historical sites like the Cu Chi Tunnels and experience the bustling urban life. The tour culminates with a tranquil excursion into the verdant Mekong Delta, offering a glimpse into rural riverine existence.

This itinerary is ideal for travelers seeking a balanced blend of cultural insights, natural wonders, and authentic local encounters, ensuring a deep and meaningful connection with Vietnam's soul. Enjoy expertly guided excursions, comfortable accommodations, and seamless transitions between diverse regions.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Experience Hanoi's ancient charm with a guided Old Quarter street food tasting.
* Spend a night cruising the stunning limestone formations of Ha Long Bay aboard a luxury vessel.
* Ascend Fansipan Mountain by cable car for panoramic views of Sapa's majestic peaks.
* Walk through a Red Dao village, meeting local families and learning about their traditional crafts.
* Explore the Imperial Citadel of Hue and enjoy a serene boat trip on the Perfume River.
* Wander through the lantern-lit streets of Hoi An Ancient Town and take an evening river cruise.
* Discover the historic Cu Chi Tunnels via an exhilarating speedboat journey from Ho Chi Minh City.
* Cycle and cruise through the intricate waterways of the Mekong Delta, observing local life.
* Savor authentic Vietnamese cuisine, from street food delights to a romantic hillside dinner in Hue.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Hanoi Arrival and City Introduction

Stay: Peridot Grand Luxury hotel | Transport: Airport transfer

Upon your arrival at Hanoi's international airport, a private vehicle will be waiting to provide a comfortable transfer to your hotel. After checking in, the remainder of the day is yours to spend at leisure. You might choose to relax and recover from your journey, or perhaps take a gentle stroll around the immediate vicinity of your accommodation to get a first impression of Vietnam's vibrant capital city.

Hanoi offers a fascinating blend of ancient traditions and modern life, with tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, and thousands of years of history. Consider exploring a local market or finding a quiet cafe to observe daily life unfold.

Activities:
Arrive at Hanoi airport
Transfer to your accommodation
Check into your hotel
Relax or explore Hanoi independently

Day 2 Hanoi Cultural Landmarks and Old Quarter Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Peridot Grand Luxury hotel | Transport: Private car

Today features an enriching city excursion to some of Hanoi's most significant cultural sites. Begin with a visit to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, a serene complex of courtyards and pavilions. Afterwards, explore the tranquil West Lake area, observing the scenic Thanh Nien street and the ancient Tran Quoc Pagoda, an important Buddhist shrine.

Later, your guide will lead a fascinating walking tour through the historic Old Quarter. This maze of narrow streets is famous for its '36 Streets,' traditionally named after the goods once sold there. You'll pass by streets that still honor their namesake trades, such as Tin and Bamboo Street, offering a glimpse into Hanoi's commercial past. The guided walk concludes with a refreshing Vietnamese coffee at a cafe that provides picturesque views of Hoan Kiem Lake, a central symbol in Vietnamese folklore.

Activities:
Visit the historic Temple of Literature
Explore the serene West Lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda
Take a guided walk through Hanoi's Old Quarter
Observe traditional trade streets like Tin and Bamboo Street
Enjoy Vietnamese coffee with views of Hoan Kiem Lake

Day 3 Scenic Journey to Ha Long Bay & Overnight Cruise

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Capella Cruise | Transport: Limousine bus, cruise boat

In the morning, a driver will collect you from your hotel for a scenic journey towards Ha Long Bay, an estimated 2.5-hour drive. Upon arrival, you'll proceed to the Capella Cruise Lounge for check-in procedures before boarding your luxury cruise vessel. A warm welcome drink awaits as you settle into your cabin.

Lunch will be served as the cruise begins its gentle navigation through the breathtaking seascape of thousands of limestone

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karsts and islets. In the afternoon, the adventure continues with an exploration of Sung Sot Cave (Surprise Cave), one of the bay's most magnificent grottoes, featuring impressive stalactites and stalagmites. As evening approaches, enjoy a stunning sunset from the sundeck during happy hour. A delectable dinner will be served in the onboard restaurant, followed by free time to relax and enjoy the serene atmosphere of the bay.

Activities:
Transfer from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay
Check in at the Capella Cruise Lounge
Board the Capella Cruise and enjoy welcome refreshments
Savor lunch onboard while cruising the bay
Discover the impressive Sung Sot Cave
Experience sunset and happy hour on deck
Dine at the onboard restaurant
Relax after dinner

Day 4 — Ha Long Bay Sunrise, Hanoi Street Food & Overnight Train

Meals: B,L | Stay: Night train Hanoi – Lao Cai | Transport: Cruise boat, bamboo boat, limousine bus, private car, night train

Start your day early with the opportunity to witness a spectacular sunrise over Ha Long Bay, followed by an optional meditation session on the sundeck. A light breakfast will be served before you embark on a bamboo boat excursion to explore the hidden beauty of Luon Cave, a tranquil lagoon accessible through a narrow archway. Afterwards, return to the cruise for a generous brunch buffet.

Following brunch, you'll check out from your cabin and disembark at the Capella Cruise Waiting Lounge, where your transfer back to Hanoi awaits. Arriving in Hanoi in the afternoon, you'll have some free time before embarking on a culinary adventure in the Old Quarter. At 5:00 PM, a guide will meet you for a street food tour, starting at the famous Bia Hoi Corner to sample the local draft beer.

Continue through the bustling narrow streets, where your guide will introduce you to a variety of tasty noodles, breads, and snacks from sidewalk vendors. Experience the lively evening atmosphere as locals gather on stools around sizzling woks for an authentic flame-grilled Vietnamese barbecue. The gastronomic journey concludes with dessert at Hanoi's renowned ice-cream parlor. Later, at 9:00 PM, you will be transferred to the train station to catch the 10:00 PM night train to Lao Cai, settling into a comfortable 4-bed cabin for your overnight journey.

Activities:
Witness the sunrise over Ha Long Bay
Participate in morning meditation on the sundeck
Enjoy a light breakfast onboard
Explore Luon Cave via bamboo boat
Indulge in a brunch buffet
Return to Hanoi by limousine bus
Embark on a guided street food tour in Hanoi's Old Quarter
Sample local draft beer at Bia Hoi Corner
Try various Vietnamese noodles, breads, and snacks
Enjoy a flame-grilled Vietnamese barbecue
Taste dessert from a renowned Hanoi ice-cream parlor
Transfer to the train station for an overnight journey to Lao Cai

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Day 5 Sapa Arrival & Fansipan Mountain Ascent

Meals: B | Stay: Topas Ecolodge | Transport: Private car, cable car

Your train will arrive in Lao Cai around 6:00 AM, where you'll be met and transferred by car for a 45-minute drive to Sapa. Upon arrival, enjoy breakfast at a local restaurant and take some time to rest before your morning adventure. Today's highlight is a cable car ride to the summit of Fansipan Mountain, known as the 'Roof of Indochina.'

As you ascend, marvel at the stunning natural scenery, including the majestic Hoang Lien Son mountain range and the picturesque Muong Hoa Valley, often shrouded in a ethereal mist. Once at the cable car station, prepare for a climb of 600 stone steps to reach the very top of Fansipan for unparalleled panoramic views. After soaking in the incredible vistas, you'll take the cable car back down to Sapa town and then transfer to the charming Topas Ecolodge for your overnight stay, offering a peaceful retreat amidst the mountains.

Activities:
Arrive at Lao Cai train station
Transfer to Sapa and have breakfast
Ascend Fansipan Mountain by cable car
Admire panoramic views of the Hoang Lien Son range and Muong Hoa Valley
Climb 600 steps to the summit of Fansipan
Transfer to Topas Ecolodge for overnight stay

Day 6 Red Dao Village Trek & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B | Stay: Peridot Grand Luxury hotel | Transport: Walking, limousine bus

After breakfast at your ecolodge, begin a picturesque walk from Topas Ecolodge along a quiet road, offering magnificent views of the terraced rice fields below. The path gradually ascends towards Lech village, where you'll have the opportunity to visit a local Red Dao house. Here, you'll meet friendly villagers and gain insight into their daily lives and unique cultural practices. The Red Dao women are notable for their distinct customs, including shaved hair and eyebrows, and their vibrant, intricately embroidered traditional clothing. They are also renowned for their skilled handmade embroidery and basket weaving.

During your visit, you may also stop by the village school to learn about the education system in Vietnam's northern mountains. The return journey to Topas Ecolodge involves walking along smaller trails that wind through more rice terraces and cross a charming suspension bridge. Your guide will share fascinating details about the local farmers' cultivating techniques and their deep connection to the land. After returning to the ecolodge around noon, you'll have free time until 2:30 PM, when a Topas limousine bus will transfer you back to Hanoi. You will be dropped off at your Hanoi hotel around 8:00 PM.

Activities:
Enjoy breakfast at Topas Ecolodge
Begin a scenic walk with views of rice terraces
Hike to Lech village
Visit a local Red Dao home and interact with residents
Learn about Red Dao embroidery and basket weaving
Explore the village school and its education system
Walk along small trails, crossing a suspension bridge
Gain insight into local farming practices

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Return to Hanoi by limousine bus

Day 7 Flight to Hue & Romantic Hillside Dinner

Meals: B,D | Stay: aNhill Boutique | Transport: Private car, domestic flight

In the afternoon, a private car will transfer you to Noi Bai Airport for your 1 hour and 20 minute domestic flight from Hanoi to Hue. Upon arrival at Hue airport, a driver will meet you and provide a transfer to the AnHill Hotel for check-in. You'll then have some free time to settle in and relax.

As evening descends, prepare for a special romantic experience. Begin with an aperitif, enjoying the breathtaking sunset views over the surrounding hills. As candlelight illuminates the tranquil Koi pond, you will be treated to a custom-designed dinner for two. This exquisite meal features decadent ingredients and local specialties, expertly prepared by the hotel's chef, creating a truly memorable dining occasion.

Activities: Transfer to Noi Bai airport
Fly from Hanoi to Hue
Transfer to AnHill hotel and check in
Enjoy an aperitif as the sun sets over the hill
Savor a customized romantic dinner featuring local specialties

Day 8 Hue Imperial History & Perfume River Cruise

Meals: B,L | Stay: aNhill Boutique | Transport: Private car, boat

At 8:30 AM, your tour guide will pick you up to begin a full day of exploring Hue's historical treasures. The day starts with a visit to the Hue Imperial Citadel, the magnificent former home of Vietnam's last royal dynasty, the Nguyen Dynasty. Wander through its impressive gates, palaces, and temples, learning about the rich history of imperial Vietnam. After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, you'll embark on a serene boat trip along the Perfume River.

Enjoy the peaceful journey downstream, taking in the lush green landscapes that line the riverbanks. After approximately an hour, you'll disembark at a pier and transfer to the elaborate tomb of Emperor Khai Dinh. This unique architectural masterpiece showcases an unusual blend of traditional Vietnamese design with strong European influences, reflecting the emperor's taste. You will return to your hotel in the afternoon, with the evening free to relax in Hue.

Activities: Visit the historic Hue Imperial Citadel
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant
Cruise along the tranquil Perfume River
Explore the unique tomb of Emperor Khai Dinh
Return to your hotel in Hue

Day 9 Coastal Drive to Hoi An & Ancient Town Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Royal hotel Hoi An | Transport: Private car, boat

This morning, embark on a picturesque journey southwards from Hue to Hoi An, a drive that typically takes around two hours.

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Along the way, you'll make stops at the beautiful Lang Co beach and traverse the dramatic Hai Van Pass, offering stunning coastal views and photo opportunities. Upon arrival in Hoi An, you'll check into your hotel before beginning a walking tour of the enchanting Ancient Town.

Hoi An is celebrated for its tranquil ambiance and unique charm, characterized by low-tiled houses with distinct Chinese architectural influences, the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, and brightly painted temples and pagodas. This makes it one of Vietnam's most delightful destinations. As the day draws to a close, enjoy a relaxing boat trip along the Thu Bon River, a waterway integral to Hoi An's geography, culture, and historical significance as a trading port.

Activities: Travel by road from Hue to Hoi An
Stop at Lang Co beach and traverse Hai Van Pass
Walk through Hoi An Ancient Town
Admire Chinese-style houses and the Japanese Covered Bridge
Visit local temples and pagodas
Enjoy an evening boat trip on the Thu Bon River

Day 10 Leisure Day in Hoi An

Meals: B | Stay: Royal hotel Hoi An

Today is dedicated to your personal preferences, offering a full day at leisure to explore Hoi An or simply relax. You might choose to spend your time unwinding on the nearby beach, soaking up the sun and enjoying the coastal breeze. For those interested in culinary arts, consider joining a Vietnamese cooking class to uncover the secrets of the local cuisine, learning to prepare traditional dishes.

Alternatively, Hoi An is renowned for its skilled tailors, offering the opportunity to have custom-made clothing crafted at famously affordable prices. Whether you prefer active exploration or quiet relaxation, this day is entirely yours to design, allowing you to experience Hoi An at your own pace and pursue activities that interest you most.

Activities: Relax on the beach
Participate in a Vietnamese cooking class
Commission custom clothing from a local tailor
Explore Hoi An at your own pace

Day 11 Flight to Ho Chi Minh City & Cu Chi Tunnels by Speedboat

Meals: B,L | Stay: New World Saigon hotel | Transport: Private car, domestic flight, speed boat

Early this morning, at 6:15 AM, you will be transferred to Danang airport for a 1 hour and 30 minute flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, a driver will pick you up and transfer you to your hotel for a short period of rest. Around 11:00 AM, you will be collected again for an exciting excursion to the Cu Chi Tunnels by speedboat.

Traveling by speedboat offers a unique perspective of the city's waterways before reaching the tunnel complex. Once at the Cu Chi Tunnels, you'll have the opportunity to explore this intricate network of underground passageways, famously used by the Viet Cong during various conflicts. Your knowledgeable guide will explain the communication routes, supply lines, hospitals, and living quarters within the tunnels. A highlight of the tour is the chance to crawl through a section of the tunnels yourself,

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providing a firsthand sense of the soldiers' experiences. After exploring, enjoy a delicious traditional Vietnamese lunch featuring local specialties like lemongrass chicken and caramelized clay pot pork. You will spend the night in Ho Chi Minh City.

Activities: Transfer to Danang airport
Fly from Danang to Ho Chi Minh City
Transfer to your hotel for a brief rest
Travel to Cu Chi Tunnels by speedboat
Explore the extensive underground tunnel network
Learn about the historical use of the tunnels
Experience crawling through a section of the tunnels
Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lunch with local specialties

Day 12 Ho Chi Minh City Historical Landmarks Tour

Meals: B,L | Stay: New World Saigon hotel | Transport: Private car

Today features a comprehensive city excursion to visit Ho Chi Minh City's most prominent historical landmarks. Your first stop is the Reunification Hall, formerly known as the Presidential Palace, a site of immense historical significance as it was here that North Vietnamese tanks famously breached the gates on April 30, 1975, marking the fall of Saigon. This fascinating building is preserved with much of its original decor and provides a vivid insight into a pivotal moment in Vietnamese history.
From there, you'll enjoy a leisurely stroll to explore major sights from the city's colonial past. These include the grand Old Saigon Post Office, a beautiful example of French colonial architecture; Dong Khoi Street, once known as Rue Catinat; the historic Continental Hotel; the elegant Opera House; and the impressive City Hall. After the tour, you will be transferred back to your hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure to relax or explore further independently.

Activities: Visit the historic Reunification Hall
Walk through colonial Ho Chi Minh City
See the Old Saigon Post Office
Pass by Dong Khoi Street, Continental Hotel, and Opera House
View the City Hall building

Day 13 Mekong Delta River Life & Local Craft Exploration

At 8:00 AM, you'll depart Ho Chi Minh City, navigating through the morning traffic for a two-hour drive to the Mekong Delta. Arriving in Ben Tre around 10:00 AM, you will immediately board a boat for a pleasant cruise along the Ham Luong River. The journey will proceed at a relaxed pace, including several stops to discover traditional local crafts and industries that have been passed down through generations, with practices remaining largely intact. This offers a genuine glimpse into the region's heritage.
To conclude the morning's activities and prepare for a slightly later lunch, you'll hop on bicycles for a leisurely ride through lush forests and verdant orchards. This scenic route leads to a charming riverside restaurant, where you'll be treated to typical Mekong Delta cuisine. You'll even have the chance to try your hand at preparing a local dish, such as

Activities: Travel from Ho Chi Minh City to the Mekong Delta
Cruise along the Ham Luong River in Ben Tre

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Discover traditional local crafts and industries
Cycle through forests and orchards
Enjoy a riverside lunch featuring Mekong Delta cuisine
Learn to prepare a local dish like "Dried banana flower"
Explore narrow canals by sampan boat

Day 14 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Meals: B | Transport: Airport transfer

Enjoy your final morning in Ho Chi Minh City at your leisure. Depending on your flight schedule, you might have time for some last-minute souvenir shopping, a visit to a local market, or simply relaxing at a cafe to reflect on your Vietnamese adventure. At the appropriate time, a private transfer will be arranged to take you to the airport for your onward departure flight, concluding your 14-day journey through Vietnam.

Activities: Enjoy free time in Ho Chi Minh City
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v All private car transfers as per program
- v Limousine bus transfer for the routes Hanoi – Ha Long – Hanoi, Sapa – Hanoi
- v Hotel accommodation as specified hotels or similar with daily breakfast
- v English speaking local tour guides
- v Entrance fees and boat trips
- v Meals as stated in the itinerary (B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner)
- v Electronic visa for 01 Month - Single entry visa
- v Service charges and government tax
- v 24/7 hotline support guaranteed

NOT INCLUDED

- x International and domestic flight tickets
- x Personal expenses
- x Other meals not specified
- x Tips and gratuities
- x Travel insurance

PRICE INCLUDES

- v All private car transfers as per program
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-F17A06989997